

## AMERICA IS FIGHTING FIRST FOR HERSELF

And Only Secondarily For Humanity and Democracy And Against Autocracy.

(From the Philadelphia Record.)

In the Civil War the purpose for which we were fighting was the preservation of the Union. But it was apparent to the far-seeing from the first that the result of the war would be the emancipation of the slaves. As the war went on, the opponents of Mr. Lincoln made every effort to persuade people that the war was being conducted to free the slaves, and many men, who were loyal to the Union but were not abolitionists, lost interest in the war. The draft riots in New York were due not so much to disinclination to serve in the army as to the wrath of the Irish, who were made to believe that they were to be compelled to fight for the negroes.

The present-day Copperheads are pursuing a similar course. We are fighting for our rights on the high seas, which Germany has persistently attacked. We are fighting Germany in Europe to avert the necessity of fighting Germany as the only means of preserving the Monroe Doctrine, which is our primary line of defense against European autocracy. Decidedly, we are fighting in our own quarrel, and we are defending our own rights on land and sea.

But the result of breaking the military power of Germany will be the overthrow of autocracy and the establishment of a government of the people, for the people and by the people. We are interested in bringing about that desirable result. It appeals strongly to our love of political liberty. But the overthrow of autocracy is only a by-product of our contest to maintain American rights. If we had submitted to the German submarine campaign we should have been obliged hereafter to accept the embargo of all our ports whenever two other nations fell to fighting.

But the Copperheads are trying now, as they did 54 years ago, to confuse the issues and make people suppose that one of the inevitable results of the war is the end for which we entered it. This is a wilful misrepresentation.

### Not a Pleasant Experience.

(From the Daily Northwestern.)

Ten years after the Civil War no man was proud of having been a Copperhead. Moreover, you never heard the descendant of a Copperhead boast of the disloyalty of an ancestor who may have opposed and harshly criticized the Government during the memorable struggle of the 60's.

These are facts worth recalling at the present time, when again there are certain persons in this country who are prone to criticize and oppose the Government and its plans in connection with the war into which this nation has been forced in order to protect its honor and safety. Some there are who conceal their feelings beneath a pretense of patriotism, while others are more outspoken in their antagonism to Government policies, although usually endeavoring to keep within the bounds of personal safety.

In either case, however, American citizens who take this attitude should recall the stigma and disgrace which attached to those who acted similarly during the Civil War, and how it required years to live down the unenviable reputation thus gained. It was a very unpleasant experience for all those who foolishly permitted themselves to be classed as Copperheads, and the experience of present-day Copperheads is likely to be just as unpleasant and irksome.

### Comparative Depletion.

(From the Magazine of Wall Street.)

It has been said that history furnishes no parallel in any way comparable with the condition that now exists; that the depletion of the resources of the nations at war is so enormously greater than has been the case in previous wars, which condition is likely to extend to the United States if the conflict is sufficiently prolonged, is producing a state of affairs that finds no parallel, and that therefore, it is unsafe to rely on past experiences. To this it may be said that, by comparison, the resources of the Allies are not being strained to a greater extent than were those of England during the twenty years of Napoleonic wars, and that the entrance of the United States, as a belligerent as well as an economic factor, so strengthens the resources of the Allies that no apprehension need be felt as to the final result; the economic effect on this country.

### WAR EMPHASIZES NEED OF CHILD LABOR LAWS

Washington.—"The experience of war time has demonstrated the necessity—technical, economic and even physiological—of the labor laws enacted before the war. In our legislation, secured in time of peace, we shall find the conditions for a better and more intense production during the war."

These words of Albert Thomas, French munitions minister, illustrate the attitude of France and England after two years of emergency exemptions for war industries, according to the children's bureau of the United States department of labor, which has just completed a brief review of all available reports on child labor in the warring countries.

In France and England, earlier standards of hours are being restored, not only to protect the health of the workers, but for the sheer sake of industrial efficiency, present and future. In Italy the central committee on industrial mobilization has taken steps in the same direction. In Russia, a year before the revolution, a movement was under way to raise the age limit for children in industry.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in spite of the great armies of men they have sent to the front, have maintained their labor standards, with little or no variation. Victoria has slightly increased the amount of overtime which may be permitted to women and children in special cases. On the other hand, Manitoba has reduced its legal overtime. No change in restrictions on women and child labor is reported from New Zealand.

In England the war exemptions to the factory laws have not included a lowering of the age limits for factory work, and the exemptions to the school attendance laws permitted for agriculture and "light employment" are now bitterly regretted by the general education authority which has sanctioned them.

## ANNUAL LIVING COST FOR FAMILY OF FIVE IS \$1,486.75

Detroit, Mich.—It costs \$1,486.75 to support a family of five in this city for one year. This does not include provision for old age, extended sickness, literature, school books, ice in hot weather, insurance on household goods, care of the teeth, or fruit, such as bananas, lemons, and oranges. One concert a year is permitted and the family can spend on an average a fraction over 2 cents per member per week on other amusements.

The above estimate was submitted by Wm. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, at wage arbitration hearings. The figures were not denied by the Detroit United Railways, whose statement on increased costs of material rather supported the unionist's claims.

President Mahon's estimate, prepared last April, is based on figures furnished by organized street car men in this city.

Coal, 6 tons at \$9.25 per ton,	\$55.50;	wood and kindling,	\$3.50;	light and cooking gas,	at \$2.50 per month, \$30.00	\$89.00
Clothing for man, 1 uniform suit,	\$18;	extra pair uniform pants,	\$6;	1 suit citizens clothes, \$30;	1 uniform cap, \$1.25;	1 hat, \$2.50;
5 shirts at \$1.25 apiece,	\$6.25;	8 pairs socks at 30c pair,	\$2.40;	collars and ties, \$3;	underwear, \$7.00	76.40
Clothing for wife,						40.00
Clothing for three children,						30.00
Boots and shoes, 3 children, 3						
pairs each at \$2.18;	\$6.54;	man, 2				
pairs shoes at \$4.50 pair,	\$9.00;	1 pair overshoes, \$2;	wife, 2			
pair shoes at \$4.50 pair,	\$9.00;	rubbers, \$1;	repair of shoes			
for family, \$2.50						41.50
Furniture and utensils—3 brooms						
at 50c each, \$1.50;	brushes, \$1;	gas mantles or lamp glasses				
and lighting utensils, 75c;	stove					
utensils and polish, 50c;	shoe					
polish, laces, etc., 75c;	renewal					
of furniture and bedding, \$60.						64.50
Foodstuffs—Bread for family,						
20c per day, \$73;	cakes and					
pastry, per day, 15c,	\$54.75;	milk, 15c per day,	\$54.75			182.50
Meat, 50c per day,						182.50
Potatoes for family at 80c per						
peck, week						41.60
Sugar, 5 pounds per week at 10c						
pound						26.00
Tea, 10c per week						5.20
Coffee, 1 pound per week at 30c.						15.60
Breakfast foods and cereals, 30c						
per week						15.60
Vegetables—Cabbage, 8c a week,						
\$4.16;	onions, 5c a week,					
\$2.60;	turnips, carrots, lettuce					
and other vegetables, 15c a						
week, \$7.80						14.56
Fruits—1 barrel apples, \$4;	pres-					
erving one-half crate straw-						
berries, \$2;	preserving one-					
half crate raspberries, \$2;	pres-					
erving three baskets peaches,						
\$2.50;	preserving two baskets					
pears, \$1.50;	preserving one					
basket plums, 75c;	sugar for					
above, \$8						20.75
Butter, 4 lbs. per week at 45c						
per lb., \$93.60;	lard, 1 lb. per					
week at 25c per lb., \$13;	eggs,					
1½ doz. per week at 40c per						
doz., \$21.20;	cheese, ½ lb. at					
12c per week, \$6.24						144.04
Flour, 25-lb. bag per month at						
\$1.50 per bag						18.00
Canned goods—1 can fish at 20c						
per week, \$10.40;	1 can corn,					
at 15c per week, \$7.80;	1 can					
peas, at 15c per week, \$7.80;						
pickles at 5c per week, \$2.60.						28.60
Insurance						20.00
Union dues						12.00
Street car fare for family, 50c						
per week						26.00
Sundries—Pepper, 40c; salt, 50c;						
mustard, 50c; matches, 50c;						
vinegar, 50c; soap, 100 bars, \$5						7.40
Extras at Christmas						8.00
Evening papers and magazines						
per month, 25c						3.00
Rent for six-room cottage at \$28						
per month						336.00
Doctor and medicine for family						20.00
Donations to church						10.00
Family attending one concert,						
\$2; for summer recreation for						
the family, \$6						8.00
Total cost for year						\$1,486.75

Detroit, Mich.—Employees of the Detroit United Railways have been awarded substantial wage increases by a board of arbitration. Rates for motormen and conductors are advanced 5 to 7½ cents an hour. Conductors and motormen who have served one year or less will receive 35 cents an hour; over one year, 40 cents. The old rate was 27½ cents the first six months; 32½ cents the



—Evans in Baltimore American.

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next 18 months and 35 cents thereafter.

President Mahon, of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, led the fight for these workers. Mahon's masterful plea before the arbitration board included an itemized statement of five. The unionist presented figures to show that \$1,486.75 a year is necessary. This statement was not refuted by the company.

### WANT OFFICIALS EXEMPTED.

London, England.—In the half-yearly report of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants it is stated that about 500 letters from members of this union serving in the various European battle regions have been received.

Reference is made to the cheerful tone of the letters and to "the anxiety displayed by the soldiers that the officials of the society should not be called upon for military service but should remain to devote themselves to the maintenance of an effective trade union."

### H. C. OF L. SOLVED AT LAST.

Washington, D. C.—The high cost of living, which has baffled poet, prophet and seer, has been finally solved by United States Senator Sherman, who rejects such theories as the war, trusts, middlemen, the gold supply, poor distribution, faulty transportation, etc., etc. High living cost can be traced to fine factory conditions, "union hours," and city life, says this philosopher, who talks of "underlying causes."

"It is because the help has gone from the farm," he avers. "It has gone to the factory, to the counting house, to the store, to the great manufacturing, jobbing and retail centers of the country. These men have gone because they like the work and get higher wages and shorter hours. They have more amusements. City life is more attractive to the average young person. The result is that the farm is drained."

### HARVESTER TRUST PROFITS.

New York.—The international harvester corporation, which handles the export business of the harvester trust, reports gross earnings of \$9,771,021, compared with \$6,608,466 the year before. Clear profits for 1916 totaled \$5,137,098, against \$3,720,141 in 1915. This does not include large sums set aside for depreciation and to offset possible war losses.

These stupendous profits interest thousands of employees in the Deering and McCormick plants of the trust who struck last year to secure the eight-hour day and wage increases. Sweeping injunctions were issued against them and a Polish newspaper was enjoined from printing an appeal to all working men to stay away from these plants.

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